

**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Footwear with a lace fastening comprising:

an opening with a first edge and a second edge which are juxtaposed and each of the first and second edges carries a respective plurality of lacing-eyes, eyes;

at least ~~two laces~~ a first lace and a second lace extending through respective pairs of the lacing eyes ~~eyes~~;

wherein the ~~laces~~ first and the second laces are led through alternating lacing eyes of the respective pluralities of lacing eyes in a manner such ~~that~~ that;

between two consecutive lacing eyes of the first edge through which the first lace extends, there is at least one lacing eye of the first edge through which the second lace extends;

between two consecutive lacing eyes of the second edge through which the first lace extends, there is at least one lacing eye of the second edge through which the second lace extends;

between two consecutive lacing eyes of the first edge through which the second lace extends, there is at least one lacing eye of the first edge through which the first lace extends;

between the two consecutive lacing eyes of the second edge through which the second lace extends, there is at least one lacing eye of the second edge through which the first lace extends;

and such that:

between two consecutive lacing eyes of the first edge through which the first lace extends, the first lace extends through only one lacing eye of the second edge;

between two consecutive lacing eyes of the second edge through which the first lace extends, the first lace extends through only one lacing eye of the first edge;

between two consecutive lacing eyes of the first edge through which the second lace extends, the second lace extends through only one lacing eye of the second edge;

between two consecutive lacing eyes of the second edge through which

the second lace extends, the second lace extends through only one lacing eye of the first edge;

the first lace crossing between two consecutive lacing eyes of the first edge through which it extends and between two consecutive lacing eyes of the second edge through which it extends, and the second lace crossing between two consecutive lacing eyes of the first edge through which it extends and between two consecutive lacing eyes of the second edge through which it extends;

~~between two consecutive lacing eyes of the same edge through which a first of the laces extends, there is at least one lacing eye of the same edge through which a second of the laces extends such that each lace, between two consecutive lacing eyes of the same edge through which it extends, extends through only one lacing eye of the edge,~~

and wherein the ends of both of the first and second laces converge on both of the first and second edges of the opening, with at least one end of first and second laces each lace extending through a respective end lacing eye of the fastening provided on each of the first and second edges.

2. (Previously Presented) The footwear according to claim 1 in which the corresponding ends of each lace converge in respective and separate grips.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The footwear according to claim 1 in which the lacing eyes are of the closed-eye type.
5. (Previously Presented) The footwear according to claim 1 in which means are provided for locking the laces.
6. (Previously Presented) The footwear according to claim 5 in which the locking means are of the constricting type.
7. (Previously Presented) The footwear according to claim 5 in which the locking means are provided in the region of the respective end lacing eyes.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously Presented) The footwear according to claim 2 in which the lacing eyes are of the closed-eye type.
- 10-13. (Cancelled)
14. (Previously Presented) The footwear according to claim 16 in which the locking

means are provided in the region of the respective end lacing eyes.

15. (Previously Presented) The footwear according to claim 2 in which means are provided for locking the laces.

16. (Previously Presented) The footwear according to claim 15 in which the locking means are active independently on each pair of the respective ends of laces converging in one of said respective and separate grips.